nationalised banks, as per d' ls below :—

S.No.	Name of the Bank	Date from which lying vacant
1.	Canara Bank	1.9.1996
2.	UCO Bank	23.10.1996

Necessary steps for filling up these vacancies have been initiated.

Insurance Cover Against Natural Calamities

1165. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any insurance cover is provided to the poor people under which their houses that are burnt or washed away by natural calamities like fire, flood, cyclone, earthquake etc. are reconstructed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to formulate such a scheme for the benefit of the poor people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). 'Hut Insurance Scheme' provides immediate relief to the poor families in rural areas, whose annual income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 4,800/-, when their huts and belongings get destroyed by fire. A master policy covering all eligible population in the country is issued by the general insurance industry for which the entire premium is borne by the Central Government. This Scheme is not intended to cover perils like floods, cyclones, earthquakes etc. for which a separate 'Calamity Relief Fund Scheme' already exists in the States. Therefore, it is not considered necessary to cover these risks under the 'Hut Insurance Scheme'.

[Translation]

Performance of Banks in Haryana

1166. SHRI O.P. JINDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the performance of each of the public sector banks in the matter of their deposits, loan distribution etc. during the last three years in Haryana; and

(b) the target fixed and loans granted in Agricultural and Industrial sectors and also under self employment scheme by each of the banks during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Visit of US Trade Representatives

1167. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the US Trade representatives, during their recent visit to New Delhi, made some suggestions regarding reduction or elimination of tariff duties on telecommunications, hardware and software;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The US has made a proposal for an agreement under the World Trade Organisation to reduce/eliminate tariff on information technology related goods by the year 2000. The Government is examining the merits of the proposal.

Child Marriage

1168. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Karnataka High Court has recently recommended to the Union Government that penalty prescribed for underage marriages be drastically increased to punish the guilty; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) No such recommendation has so far been received.

(b) Does not arise.

Imposition of Duty on Indian Floriculture by EU

1169. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Union has imposed a duty of 15 to 20 percent on Indian floriculture whereas most other developing countries are exempted from this levy;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have taken up this matter with the European Union; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). There is no separate country specific duty regime imposed by the European Union (EU) as the duties are